IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraphs 0032, 0033 and 0034 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

[0032] FIG. 3 shows an embodiment of a dynamic gain equalizer 300 constructed in accordance with the present invention, which employs the optical switch shown in FIG. 2. In FIGS. 2 and 3 like elements are denoted by like reference numerals. In addition to communication ports 340_1-340_n, the gain equalizer 300 also includes at least one monitoring port that is parallel to the communication ports 340_1-340_n. Two such monitoring ports 350_1 and 350_2 are depicted in FIG. 3. Similar to the communication ports 340_1-340_n, monitoring ports 350_1 and 350_2 have collimating lenses 315_1 and 315_2 respectively associated with them. Each of the monitoring port 350_1 and 350_2 is situated so that a wavelength component directed from that port is received by the narrow band, free space switch that is used to route that given wavelength component in the previously described manner. However the monitoring ports 350_1 and 350_2 are situated so that each wavelength component passes through the thin film filter, but not the collimating lens, of the appropriate narrow band, free space switch. For example, if wavelength component λ_2 is directed from monitoring port 350_1, it will traverse thin film filter 302 but not collimating lens 322. Rather, as described below, wavelength component λ_2 will be received by a detector associated with the monitoring port 350_1.

A1 Cont.

[0033] In accordance with the present invention, a dynamic gain equalizer is provided in which each of the narrow band, free space switches include a detector associated with each of the monitoring ports that are provided. For example, in FIG. 3, which employs two monitoring ports 350_1 and 350_2, the free space switch routing wavelength λ_2 includes detectors 355_1 and 355_2. Detectors 355_1 and 355_2 receive optical signals from monitoring ports 350_1 and 350_2, respectively. Likewise, the free